

Focus On County Government

Spring/Summer 2002

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Executive Report...

Dear Friend:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Spring/Summer 2002 Focus on County Government. As your Waukesha County Executive, I am proud of the high quality, fiscally responsible services that we offer to you.

Our first and foremost priority is to ensure the safety of all our citizens. To that end, County government is working hard to protect public safety. The proposed Department of Public Safety, including a new "state of the art" shared dispatch facility, is moving forward. In response to the post 9/11 world that we live in, Waukesha County has convened a Bio-Terrorism Task Force. And finally, we are poised to start the Justice Center expansion to address our growing jail population.

Waukesha County government is also working to maintain and improve our high quality of life. This fall we will open Phase I of Fox River Park in the Town of Waukesha. This park will offer outdoor activities for everyone. During these upcoming summer months, I encourage you to visit the Waukesha County Parks System.

Please take a minute to read how we are working to serve you. If you have questions or comments, call me at (262) 548-7902 or e-mail me at countyexec@waukeshacounty.gov.



Waukesha County Executive
Daniel M. Finley



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Help is a ~~Four Letter Word~~ Three Digit Number...

Waukesha County, the Mental Health Association, and United Way have recently partnered to launch 2-1-1, a telephone helpline for human service-related information and referrals.

2-1-1 is a central access point that links individuals seeking information about family, health and social services to 1,700 community-based resources. Access is available by dialing 2-1-1 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days a year. The Mental Health Association, which operates "First Call For Help", will provide those who dial 2-1-1 with assistance through the program's trained, professional telephone counselors. The agency has over 37 years of crisis call center experience.

Nationwide the project began on July 21, 2000, when the Federal Communications Commission assigned the use of the three-digit dialing code to be used for community information and referral services. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission then approved the use of 2-1-1 for the same purposes in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Dane Counties.

In The News...

Public Safety

Waukesha County Executive Daniel M. Finley has proposed creating a new Waukesha County Department of Public Safety. The Department would consist of Emergency Management, Radio Services, Security, and a Public Safety Communications Center. The Center will provide police, fire, and emergency medical dispatching services to cities, villages, and towns that wish to join. Consolidating dispatch operations will result in savings of over \$1 million annually for county taxpayers while providing the same or better dispatch service for participating communities. The Public Safety Communications Center is scheduled to open in April of 2004.

Building Strong Foundations

The Waukesha County University of Wisconsin-Extension, City of Waukesha Police Department, and Saratoga Elementary School have partnered to provide an 8-week after school program call Police and Kids (PAK).

The program teaches students skills to deal with issues that are relevant to their daily lives like: peer pressure, gang violence, verbal judo, and responsibility to themselves, their families and the community at-large.

Kruziki as U.S. Marshal

In March, Sheriff William Kruziki was nominated for U.S. Marshal-Eastern District by President Bush. On May 7, the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination.

Kruziki began his career with the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department as a Cadet in 1973.

Kruziki was elected Sheriff in 1994. During that time, he organized the Waukesha County School Violence Prevention Task Force. For his efforts, the Attorney General named him the 1998 Law Enforcement Executive of the Year.

Financial Practice Awarded

Waukesha County was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), for the 15th consecutive year.

The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

An impartial panel was selected by GFOA to judge the CAFR's ability to clearly communicate the County's financial standing.

GFOA is a non-profit, professional association that serves 13,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. It provides the only national awards program for government budgeting.

Passport Sales Discontinued

The Civil Division of the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office discontinued processing passport applications on March 1.

Passport applications may be completed at various U.S. Post Offices including the City of Waukesha, the City of New Berlin, the City of Oconomowoc, and the Village of Menomonee Falls.

Terrorism Preparedness Grant

Waukesha County will receive a \$58,000 federal grant to buy terrorism preparedness equipment as a result of the State of Wisconsin's effort to gain approval for its Domestic Preparedness Strategic Plan.

The monies will be used to purchase protective, detection, monitoring, and communications equipment.

Supporting Our Families...

The Department of Senior Services recognizes the critical role of families providing care to older family members. The physical, emotional, and financial demands can place enormous stress on the caregiver, and regular breaks are crucial to their well being.

To help address these issues, the Family Caregiver Support program has been designed to offer the caregiver: information and assistance in accessing support services; a resource library with over 400 books; demonstration items; videos and cassette tapes; respite care to enable caregivers to get temporary relief from their responsibilities;

supplemental services to complement the care provided by caregivers; and presentations to companies on the impact of caregivers within the workforce.

In addition, the program also provides information and assistance, supportive programming, and respite care for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The Department of Senior Services will hold its Caregiver Conference for family caregivers and the professionals that guide them on Friday, September 27, at the Country Inn Hotel and Convention Center, from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Please call (262) 548-7828 for more information.

Kids That Read Voice Opinions...

County Executive Daniel M. Finley announced Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling, as the winner of the Waukesha County Kids Choice Award, on Wednesday, February 13, at Horizon School in Pewaukee.

Attendees included librarians from the Barbara Sanborn Public Library in Pewaukee, teachers and librarians from area schools, and kids that love to read.

An official certificate was sent to Rowling. The author replied, "I am honoured and delighted to have won the Waukesha County Kids Choice Award for Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Please pass on my thanks to everyone who voted for Harry and thank you for sending me the certificate."

The Kids Choice Award is a cooperative effort between 12 public libraries and school media centers to encourage children in grades 4, 5 and 6 to read.

The program asks librarians from these organizations to compile a reading list of 15 outstanding juvenile books published in the last five years.

The Waukesha County Federated Library System then tallies the results and provides copies of the books to participating public libraries.

Kids that read at least five books on the list qualified to vote for their favorite story.



County Executive Finley and Federated Library System Director Tom Hennen at Horizon School with Kids Choice readers.

Acquisition Trail...

Abundant parks, water resources and green spaces in Waukesha County offer residents and visitors recreational, cultural and educational opportunities to enhance their quality of life, while demonstrating environmental stewardship.

The Legacy Parkland Acquisition Program was created to provide a guide for acquisition and development of land and facilities needed to satisfy open space needs for existing and future populations.

One of our more recent acquisitions is Frog Hollow, a 31-acre parcel of the south shoreline of Nagawicka Lake in Delafield. It was purchased cooperatively with the Waukesha Land Conservancy to protect wetlands and water quality.

The County also acquired the Bernklau Property in the Town of Lisbon, within the Bark River Corridor. The 18.8-acre property protects the river's headwater which con-

tains wetland, a primary environmental corridor, a woodland, and a flood plain.

The County and the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources cooperatively acquired a property on the south side of Moose Lake, located off of Highway "C" in the Town of Merton. The property has a boat launch and fishing pier, which the State agency will be replacing in the future.

The County's most recent acquisition was that of the 34-acre Haberman Property that runs along Highway "Z" in the Town of Ottawa. Containing both wetlands and uplands, this Greenway parcel acquisition is significant because it will provide future public access to the Scuppernong Creek and the Glacial Drumlin Recreational Trail.

For more information about Waukesha County's Legacy Parkland Acquisition Program, please contact the Parks System Division at (262) 548-7790.

Stepping-Up Planning Efforts...

Waukesha County Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Malueg and Health Officer Peter Schuler are leading planning efforts to develop a county-wide response plan for bio-terrorism and emerging infectious diseases.

Representatives from Public and Environmental Health, the Sheriff's Department, and the Medical Examiner's Office, as well as representatives from County hospitals, private clinics, the American Red Cross, and the military,

are assisting with the planning.

Bio-terrorism is the intentional use of a bacteria such as anthrax, a virus such as small pox, parasites, or other agents to inflict terror and cause disease and illness to large portions of the population.

The plan will describe how we will respond to, mitigate, and recover from the consequences of such an incident.

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Waukesha County Executive
Daniel M. Finley

Town Hall Meetings...

As the County begins its 2003 budget process, three Town Hall Meetings have been scheduled to provide you with an overview of the County budget. The dates, times and locations for these meetings follow:

Tuesday, July 23
7:30 a.m.

Strong Capital Management, Inc.
100 Heritage Reserve
Menomonee Falls

Sponsored by:
Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce

North of Intersection of Appleton Avenue & Good Hope
Road; Right on Heritage Reserve

Wednesday, July 24
7 p.m.

United Way in Waukesha County
1717 Paramount Drive
Waukesha

Sponsored by:
United Way in Waukesha County

South of Intersection of
STH 18 & STH 164

Tuesday, July 30
6 p.m.

Summit Town Hall
2911 North Dousman Road
Oconomowoc

Sponsored by:
Waukesha County Town's Association

1/4 mile North of I-94 & STH 67;
West on CTH B; South on Dousman Road

For more information about the Town Hall Meetings, please contact the County Executive's Office at (262) 548-7902 or send an e-mail to countyexec@waukeshacounty.gov.